

# EYES ONLY

5 May 1954

NOTES FOR GENERAL PALMER TO USE IN DISCUSSING  
MATTER OF US "MILITARY MISSION" IN GUATEMALA,  
WITH GENERAL ERSKINE.

\* I. A. GREGG

1. For the second time within five days we have heard indirectly from Mr. [ ] that there is the most serious concern in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense with regard to the continuation in Guatemala of the small group of US officers presently there. (The number is [ ], consisting of [ ] Army and [ ] Air Force.) It has been stated that the Defense Department and/or Army have been challenged concerning this by "someone on Capitol Hill."

2. No further specifics being available to us, we can only assume that this matter relates in some way to the article which appeared some time ago in the New York JOURNAL AMERICAN and which intimated that Senator McCarthy might be considering an attack on the Army in this connection.

3. It will be recalled that within a matter of hours after we noticed this article, we brought it to the attention of General Erskine and that we also took this up immediately at a high level in the State Department. We have previously reported to General Erskine that we hoped the matter would not be raised on Capitol Hill. General Erskine should know that the basis of our "hope" in this connection was an immediate action by a high level State Department personage, who took steps to see that it would not be raised and who reported back to us that his mission had been successful.

4. It should be borne in mind that the basic question as to whether or not the small military group should be withdrawn from Guatemala and, if so, at what time, has received very high level consideration in the State Department as well as in CIA, and that it was discussed a long time ago with General Erskine by Mr. Wisner. The matter was again reviewed by State and CIA following the appearance of the newspaper article and the US Ambassador to Guatemala was brought into the discussion. He acknowledged that he had recommended the retention of the military group and he and the other State Department people concerned were of the opinion that it would be premature at the present time to withdraw the group.

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5. When we heard again (this time via Mr. Radius in State) that the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense was still very concerned about this matter, Mr. Dulles called Under Secretary Anderson and told him in guarded language that if this matter were to be brought to his attention it had a lot of background and had been carefully thought out at very high levels. Mr. Dulles suggested to Under Secretary Anderson that no precipitous decision be taken with regard to the possible withdrawal of the group from Guatemala and that there be a discussion between himself and Mr. Anderson prior to any decision, at which time Mr. Anderson could be more fully filled in on the details of the entire matter. Under Secretary Anderson did not appear to be concerned and in any event accepted the suggestion of Mr. Dulles.

DD/P-FGW/bjm 5/5/56

Orig. to C/PPC

1 cc - DC/WH - Mr. [ ]

1 cc - SA/DCI - Mr. [ ]

1 cc - DD/P file